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THE LIMITED SERIES WITH *UNLIMITED* ACTION!

FELICIA HARDY: THE BLACK CAT



INTRODUCING: THE PHANTASMAGORICAL
VILLAINY OF... **FAZE!**

shaw001

STAN LEE PRESENTS **FELICIA HARDY: THE BLACK CAT!**
CHIMERA LOST PART TWO **FIRST STRIKE**



I WISH I
HADN'T TAKEN
THIS JOB.

THAT SMOOTH-
TALKING PAUL
PROUST OF MORELLE
PHARMACEUTICALS
PAID ME IN ADVANCE
TO RECOVER HIS
"CHIMERA," PROBABLY
KNOWING I'D END
UP IN A SPOT LIKE
THIS...

...IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
OCEAN, FACING OFF AGAINST
SOME FREAK.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

THE NAME'S
FAZE, FOR REASONS
YOU CAN PLAINLY
SEE.

OH, AND
DON'T MIND THE
MECHABYTES...

...THEY'RE JUST
HERE TO TEAR
YOU LIMB FROM
LIMB...

...UNLESS YOU
TELL ME WHY
YOU'VE STOWED
ABOARD COBALT
CHEMICALS'S
YACHT.

SHALL I
COUNT TO
THREE?

TERRY KAVANAGH - PLOT
JOEY CAVALIERI - SCRIPT
ANDREW WILDMAN - PENCILS
STEPHEN BASKERVILLE - INKS
LORETTA KROL - LETTERS
BOB SHAREN - COLORS
ERIC FEIN - EDITS
DANNY FINGEROTH - GROUP EDITS
TOM DEFALCO - THE CAT'S MEOW



WHY IS THAT THE HIGHEST NUMBER YOU KNOW?

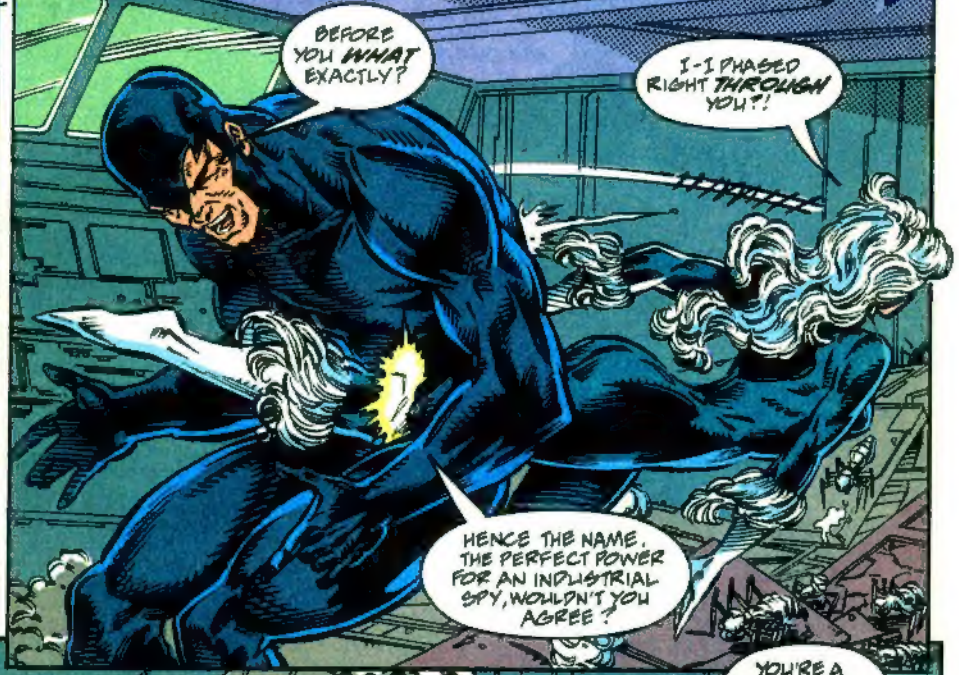
IF THESE CREATURES ARE SUPPOSED TO CAPITALIZE ON THE FAMED FEMALE SQUEAMISHNESS TOWARD TINY LITTLE BUGS...



...REMEMBER THAT CATS LIKE TO TOY WITH LITTLE CRITTERS LIKE THIS...

...BEFORE THEY RIP THEM APART!

REEL ONK REEL ONK REEL ONK



BEFORE YOU WHAT EXACTLY?

I-I PHASED RIGHT THROUGH YOU?!

HENCE THE NAME. THE PERFECT POWER FOR AN INDUSTRIAL SPY, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?



YOU'RE A SMUG ONE. AIN'T YOU?



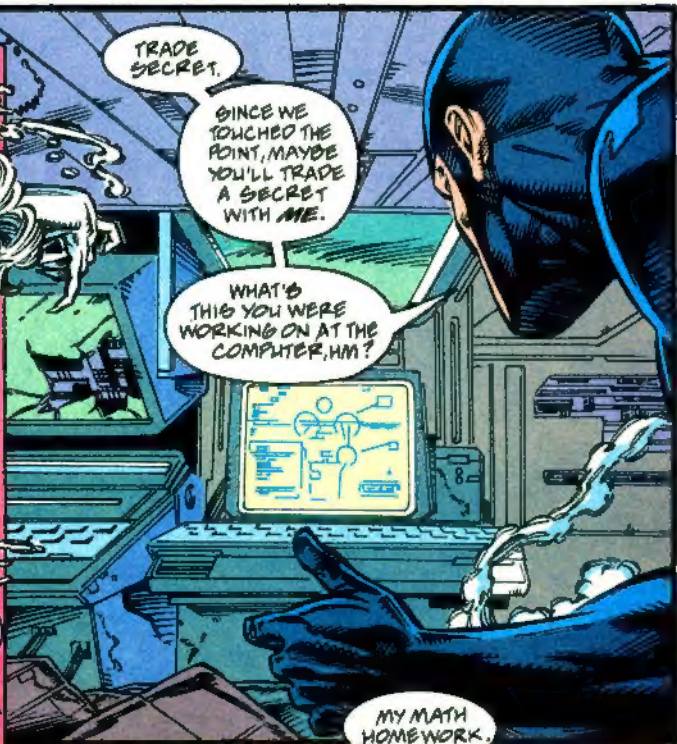
THE MECHADYTES RUN INTERFERENCE FOR ME.

SELF-REPAIRING SENSOR-BOYS CAN DO THE PRECISION WORK THAT I CAN'T!

COULDN'T YOU SAVE ALL THIS FOR YOUR YELLOW PAGES LISTING?

WHO BUILDS THESE FOR YOU, WISEGUY? FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU TO DO --

--ESPECIALLY AFTER I SLICE THROUGH A DOZEN OR SO AT A TIME WITH MY ELECTRIFIED CLAWS!



TRADE SECRET.

SINCE WE TOUCHED THE POINT, MAYBE YOU'LL TRADE A SECRET WITH ME.

WHAT'S THIS YOU WERE WORKING ON AT THE COMPUTER, HM?

MY MATH HOMEWORK.



YOU KNOW, I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP THAT NINE TIMES TABLE IN MY HEAD...

FUNNY.

I'LL WILL MY HAND TO BECOME SOLID, SO I CAN EJECT YOUR DISC FROM THE DRIVE.

I'D LIKE TO EJECT THE CARTILAGE FROM YOUR NOSE...



BUT I'LL HAVE TO CONTENT MYSELF WITH USING MY LINE TO JUMP AWAY FROM THESE PUGS!



...AND GET UP HERE TO DO THIS!

MISSED!



IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAS TO KNOW EVERYTHING...

BETTER THAN THAT, I FORCED YOU TO DEMATERIALIZER, SO THAT YOU COULDN'T HIT THE EJECT BUTTON!

THE VIRUS ON MY DISC WILL INITIATE A SYSTEM-WIDE SELF-DESTRUCT OF THIS SHIP...

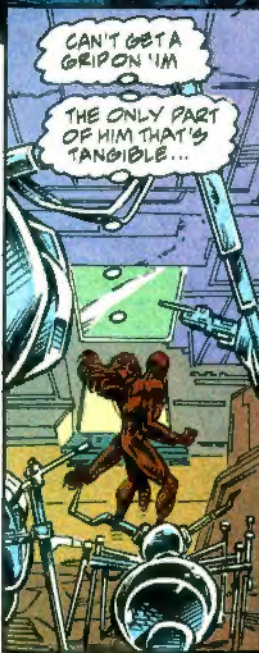
...UNLESS IT'S DISENGAGED WITH MY CODE!



AND THAT CODE IS?

UHK!
UHK!

HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT?



CAN'T GET A GRIP ON 'IM

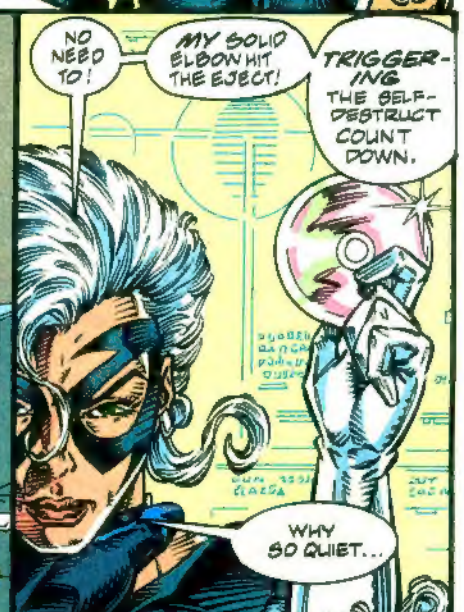
THE ONLY PART OF HIM THAT'S TANGIBLE...



...IS AROUND MY THROAT!

THE CODE!
GIVE ME THE CODE!

SNACK



NO NEED TO!

MY SOLID ELBOW HIT THE EJECT!

TRIGGERING THE SELF-DESTRUCT COUNT DOWN.



WHY SO QUIET...



...YOUR TONGUE IMMATERIAL, TOO?

YOU-- YOU COULDN'T HAVE!

WHILE YOU'RE COUNTING YOUR MINUTES LEFT ABOARD SHIP, I'LL APPLY EVEN MORE PRESSURE TO YOU, WITH MY CLAWS!

YIIII!



IT'S GOOD TO FEEL PAIN ONCE IN A WHILE, ISN'T IT? PAIN KEEPS YOU HONEST.

BY THE WAY, IF YOU'RE SO INTANGIBLE, WHY WORRY ABOUT A LITTLE EXPLOSION? IT'LL PASS RIGHT THROUGH YOU, WON'T IT?

THE UPPER LIMITS OF MY POWER HAVE NEVER BEEN TESTED BEFORE!



BUT I'M NOT STICKING AROUND TO DO SO NOW!

COME BACK! I WANTED TO ASK HOW AN INTANGIBLE GUY WALKS...

...OR WOULD THAT QUESTION BE IMMATERIAL, TOO?



KILLJOY!

I HAD ANOTHER DISC WITH AN EMERGENCY OVERRIDE ALL THE TIME.

NOW I'LL NEVER FIND OUT IF THIS WOULD'VE BLASTED HIM TO ATOMS, TOO.

SHORTLY...

I NEED TO
BE MORE THAN
INTANGIBLE
JUST NOW...

I SHOULD BE...
UNAVAILABLE!

AH! THERE'S
THE PILOT NOW...

TAKE ME TO MORELLE
PHARMACEUTICALS.

I STILL
HAVE ENOUGH
MECHABYTES STASHED
ABOARD TO GET ME
THE CHIMERA BY
SUN-UP.

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?
MORELLE'S NOT
IN THIS
DIRECTION!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE--

--DOING?

BEATS
ME.

I QUIT AFTER
THE FIRST FLYING
LESSON.

HANDS OFF THAT!
THAT'S MY STASH
OF MECHABYTES!

THANKS FOR LETTING
ME KNOW! I WOULDN'T'VE
BEEN ABLE TO PICK IT OUT
ON THE BAGGAGE
CAROUSEL OTHERWISE!

THANK
YOU FOR
CHOOSING
BLACK CAT
AIRLINES...

BYE-BYE
NOW.

BY THE WAY,
THIS HANDY
FLOTATION DEVICE
CAN BE USED AS
A FLOTATION
DEVICE.

I'LL RADIO THE
COAST GUARD AND
THEY CAN COME
GET FAZE.

AT LEAST
I GOT THE
VIRUS DISC
BACK. TOO BAD
THE DATA ON
PROJECT: FIRST
STRIKE IS
INCOMPLETE.

FAZE WAS
HIRED BY
COBALT TO GET
THE CHIMERA
FROM
MORELLE.

IT'S
GETTING
SO YOU CAN'T
TRUST
ANYBODY!

DUNNO WHAT'S GOING
ON! I WAS HIRED BY
MORELLE TO GET THE
CHIMERA FROM THE
COBALT CORPORATION.

PARKGREEN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, A MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A VISITOR, LOOP.

IF I HAD A WIFE LIKE YOURS, I'D NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE.

GET THIS, LOOP. SHE SAYS SHE MARRIED YOU SECRETLY RIGHT BEFORE YOU GOT SENT UP.

ME, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT TILL SHE SHOWED ME THE PAPERWORK.

WHY YOU WANT TO KEEP A GABE LIKE THIS A SECRET IS BEYOND ME.

HERE HE IS, MISS...ER. MRS.

A PLEASURE MEETING YOU. WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS AGAIN?

FELICIA. FELICIA HARDY.

IT'S BEEN AGES!

ACTUALLY, IT'S BEEN THREE-TO-FIVE.

LOOP! DARLING! IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

BUT THE PAROLE BOARD LIKED ME!



GUESS WE'LL LEAVE YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS ALONE, HEH HEH.

YOU PROBABLY GOT A LOT TO CATCH UP ON!

IT'S SAFE. SHE WAS SEARCHED BY A MATRON ON THE WAY IN.

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.

"WIFE?"

IT'S BRIGHT IDEAS LIKE THAT ONE THAT GOT YOUR FATHER IN BIG TROUBLE.

IF HE KNEW CAT BURGLARY WAS GOING TO RUN IN THE FAMILY--

HE'D BE PROUD AND YOU KNOW IT.

OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW HOW CRAZY HE'D BE ABOUT ME HAVING YOU FOR A "HUSBAND!"

BUT ANY OLD TIME CRONY OF HIS WOULD BE SMART ENOUGH TO PLAY ALONGS...

...AND GIVE ME THE HELP I NEED.



SAME PLACE, THAT NIGHT.

THERE'S LOOP'S CELL...

THING ABOUT PARKGREEN IS, IT'S A MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON.

AND TO ME... MINIMUM SECURITY...

...IS NO SECURITY!

THE GROUNDS HAVE
MOTION DETECTORS PLACED
AT RANDOM... SO IT'D BE
LIKE WALKING IN A MINE
FIELD! LUCKILY, I DON'T
HAVE TO WALK.

I'M HERE JUST AT THE TIME
THE GUARDS' SHIFT CHANGES...

...SO I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE
DROPPING IN ON LOOP.

LET'S
MAKE THIS
QUICK, KID.
N.Y.P.D. BLUE
S ON AND I
DON'T WANT
TO MISS T.

I THINK I'VE
BEEN HANDED
A LEMON ON
THIS JOB,
LOOP.

SO HERE'S
YOUR TOOLS.

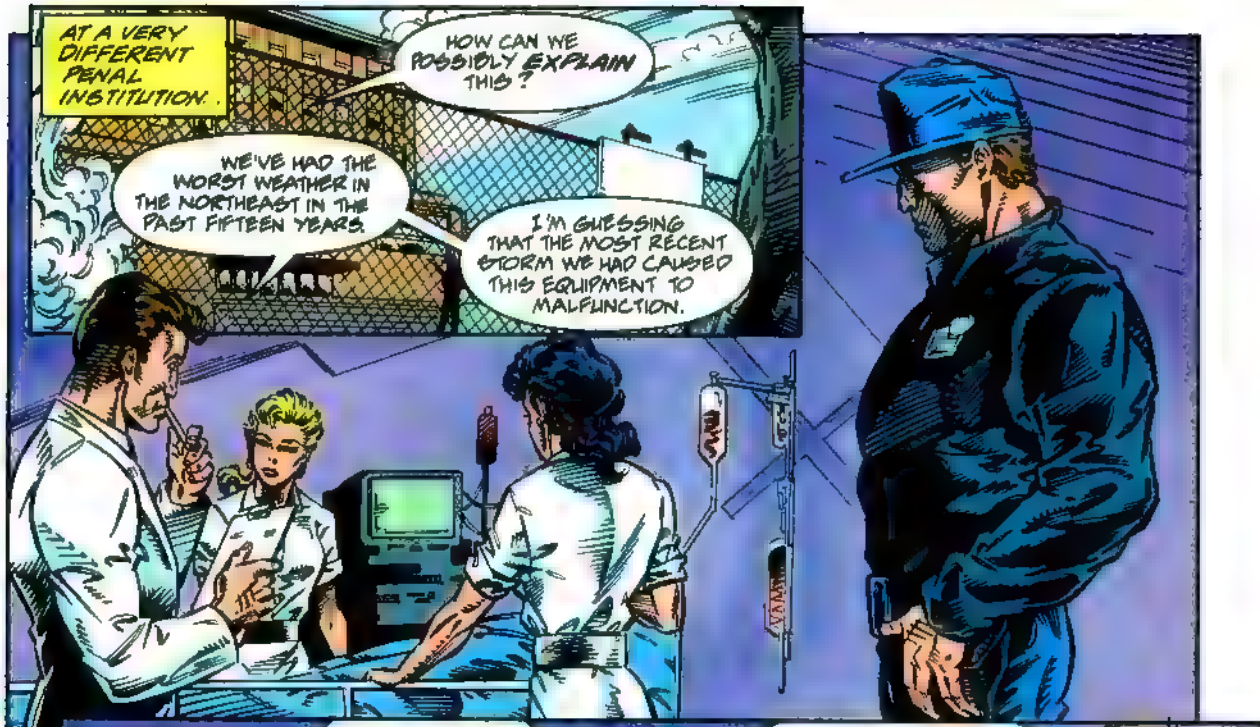
THANKS. IF I'D
TAKEN 'EM BEFORE,
THE GUARDS'D JUST
PAT ME DOWN AN'
CONFISCATE 'EM.

SEE HOW MUCH DATA YOU
CAN RECOVER OFF THIS. I
GRABBED IT AT COBALT. ANYTHING
RELATED ON THE TOPIC "PROJECT:
FIRST STRIKE."

I BETTER LEAVE
WHILE THE GUARDS
STILL GONE. I'LL CHECK
BACK IN LATER.

FOR NOW, I'VE
GOT A DINNER DATE
TO KEEP.

RIGHT. WATCH
YOURSELF, FELICIA.
IT'S A NASTY WORLD
OUT THERE.



AT A VERY DIFFERENT PENAL INSTITUTION.

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY EXPLAIN THIS?

WE'VE HAD THE WORST WEATHER IN THE NORTHEAST IN THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

I'M GUESSING THAT THE MOST RECENT STORM WE HAD CAUSED THIS EQUIPMENT TO MALFUNCTION.

HOW ELSE CAN WE ACCOUNT FOR VITAL SIGNS FROM A "COMATOSE" PATIENT?

A WEEK AGO, MR. LASH EXHIBITED NO SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

NOW, IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THE EQUIPMENT...

...BRIAN LASH WILL BE OUT OF OUR CARE AND BACK SERVING THE REST OF HIS LONG SENTENCE IN SOLITARY.

SOLITARY?
I HATE BEING ALONE. I PREFER TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH ME

YAAAAGH



WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHAT
HAPPENED?

ONE OF LASH'S
ENEMIES TRY TO
GET TO HIM?



OH, I'M THE
LAST PERSON
YOU SHOULD WORRY
ABOUT.

IN FACT,
I AM THE
LAST PERSON
YOU WILL
WORRY ABOUT

BACK IN NYC..

...ABOVE THE
PULSING BEAT OF
CANNED MUSIC AND
DRUM MACHINES
IN THIS WEEK'S
NEWEST CLUB.

ME?

BLAMM

WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
PAUL?

ISN'T ONE OF
US ENOUGH FOR
YOU?

WATCH OUT!
HE'S CHARGING
RIGHT AT US!

HAVEN'T
YOU HEARD THE
EXPRESSION,
"THREE'S A
CROWD"?



THEN WHY DON'T THE TWO OF YOU GO GET YOURSELVES SOMETHING TO DRINK?

YOU BOTH LOOK ...

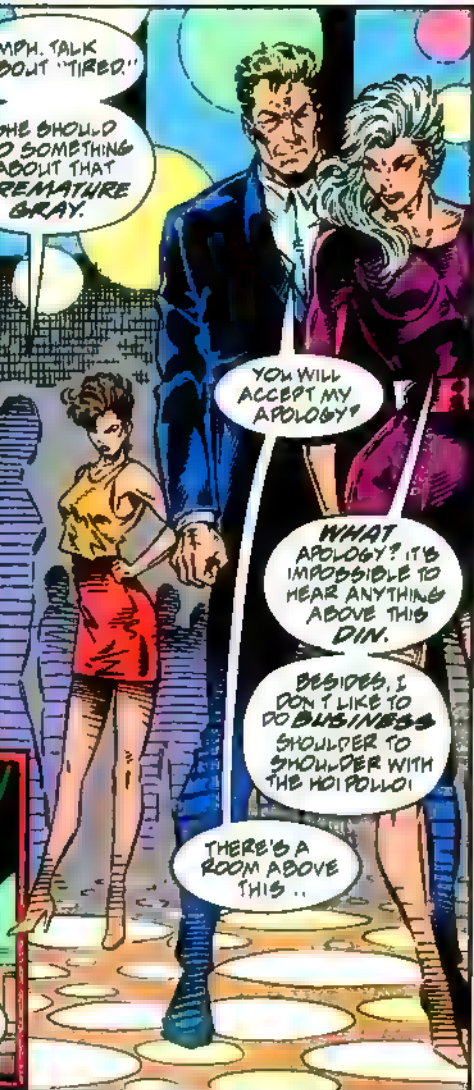
...TIRED.

HMPH. TALK ABOUT "TIRED."

SHE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PREMATURE GRAY.

MR HARDY GOOD TO SEE YOU.

FORGIVE MY SEEKING... OTHER COMPANIONS. BUT SINCE YOU WERE LATE, I DECIDED TO IMPROVISE.



YOU WILL ACCEPT MY APOLOGY?

WHAT APOLOGY? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOVE THIS DIN.

BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE TO DO BUSINESS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE HOI POLLO!

THERE'S A ROOM ABOVE THIS..



"...MORE SUITED TO MY PURPOSE!"

...AND I'M HAVING IT DECORDED EVEN NOW



SO SAVE ME THE TROUBLE.

I'VE GOT A FEELING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME EVERYTHING I SHOULD KNOW

SINCE IT'S MY SPANDEX-COVERED SKIN ON THE LINE, I DEMAND TO KNOW ALL OF IT.



WAITER WE'LL TAKE THE CHECK.

WE'LL FINISH THIS CONVERSATION AT MY PLACE



WHY? IS THAT "MORE SUITED TO YOUR PURPOSE"?



SO IF YOU
USE THIS PLACE
FOR THE "PURPOSE"
OF SEDUCING YOUR
CAT BURGLAR

A TOUCH
OF A BUTTON...
AND A NEW HARD
COPY OF THE
CHIMERA FILE
IS READY FOR
YOUR PERUSAL

ONLY IF I'M
SUCCESSFUL...

...IS IT TAX
DEDUCTIBLE?



ONLY
EVERYTHING
COULD BE
THAT EASY.

I HOPE YOU'RE
NOT REFERRING
TO ME.

I WASN'T
TALKING ABOUT
ROMANCE...

...I WAS
TALKING ABOUT
REGAINING YOUR
TRUST.

LET'S PRETEND
WE'RE SUSPICIOUS
OF EACH OTHER

LET'S SAY YOU
WERE ANGRY WITH ME
BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT
I WITHHELD IN-
FORMATION...

YOU MIGHT
TRY TO SPIKE
THIS SNIFFER.

THERE
YOU SEE?
TRUST

TRUST
LEADS TO A
PARTNERSHIP.

TRUST
LEADS TO
ROMANCE.



THAT'S SWEET
OF YOU TO SAY,
PAUL

...AND I WANT
YOU TO KNOW
I SHARE YOUR
SENTIMENTS.



ABOUT THE
SUSPICION.
NOT THE ROMANCE,
I MEAN.



THE SEDATIVE IN
MY FALSE NAIL SHOULD
PUT YOU OUT FOR ABOUT
AN HOUR



TAKE
A COLD
SHOWER
WHEN YOU
WAKE UP.
WILL YOU?



I "TRUST"
YOUR HARD
COPY OF THE
CAMERA
FILE



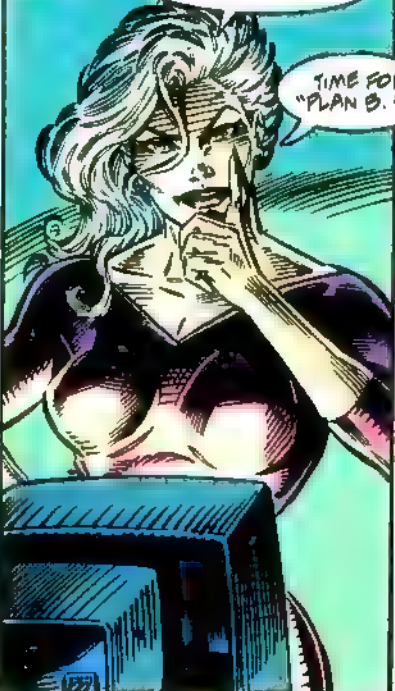
ABOUT AS
FAR AS I
CAN TOSS A
TAXICAB

THIS WILL REDIAL
HIS UPLINK TO HIS
PARENT FILE
AT MORELLE



HMM PRETTY
GOOD SO FAR
PHONE NUMBERS
AND SECURITY CODES
THAT I DON'T
HAVE BEFORE

I NEED TO
KNOW THE PASSWORD,
AND THE PASSWORDS
CHANGE AS OFTEN AS
PAUL PROUST CHANGES
HIS GIRLFRIENDS.



TIME FOR
"PLAN B."



THAT'S
"B" AS IN
"BLACK
CAT."

THEY FIXED THE
ROOF PRETTY FAST
AFTER OUR FIGHT
WITH CARDIAC! *

THEY RESTORED
IT ACCORDING TO
THE ORIGINAL
BLUEPRINTS.

*LASTISH...ERIC



...MEANING THAT
AN ELECTRO-DART,
EMBEDDED IN THE
AREA OF THE
POWER BOX



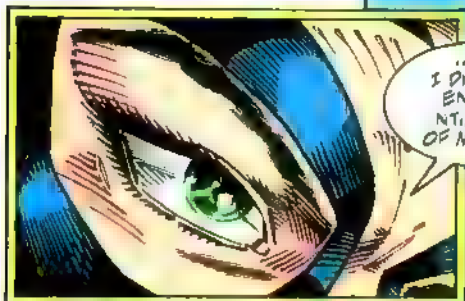
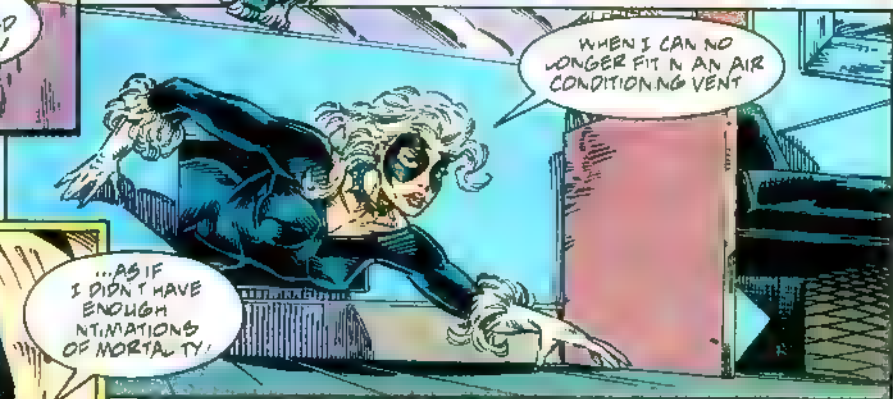
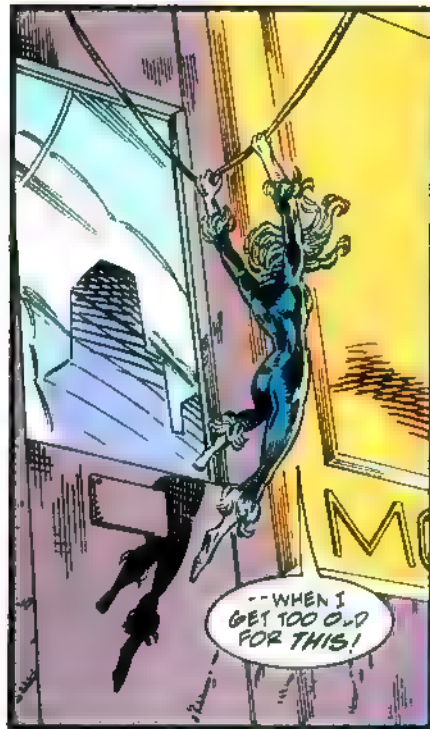
...WITH THE
AID OF THE
JPL NK I TRIED
USING ON PAUL'S
COMPUTER...

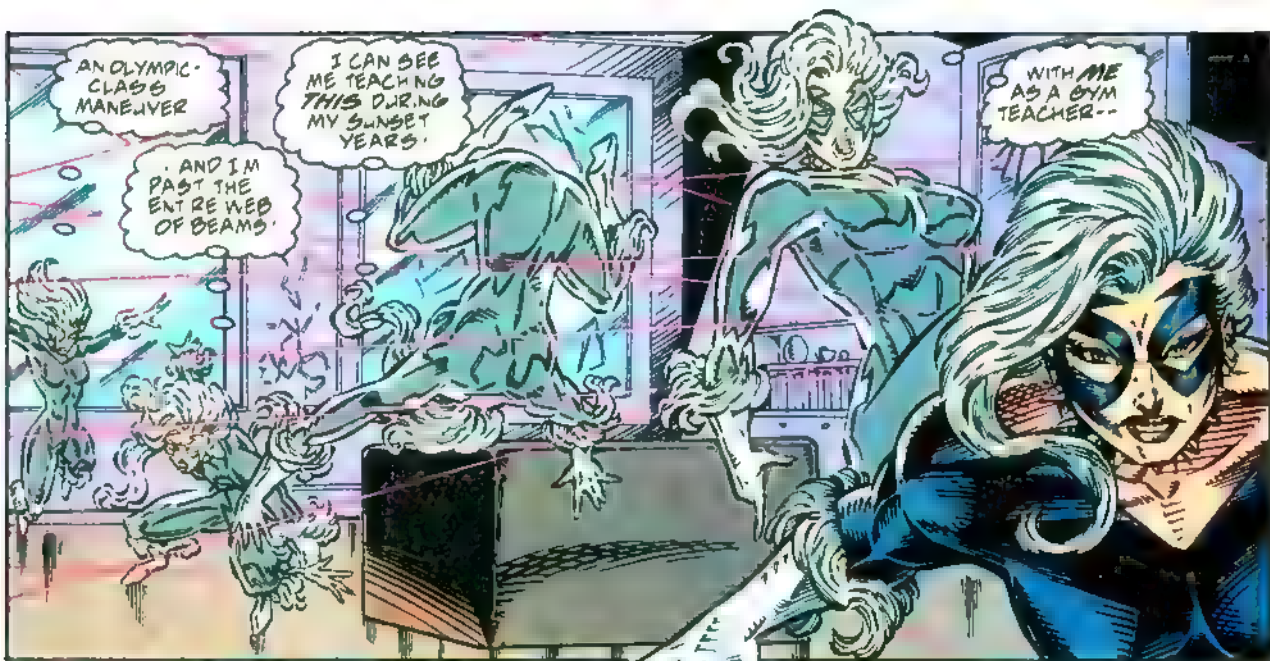
...WILL SHUT
OFF THEIR
PERIMETER
SECURITY
BY DIALING
INTO THEIR
SYSTEM.

I REALLY
OUGHT TO OPEN
A STORE...

...OR TEACH
CLASSES IN
THIS.

IT'S NICE TO
KNOW I HAVE OTHER
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
OPEN--



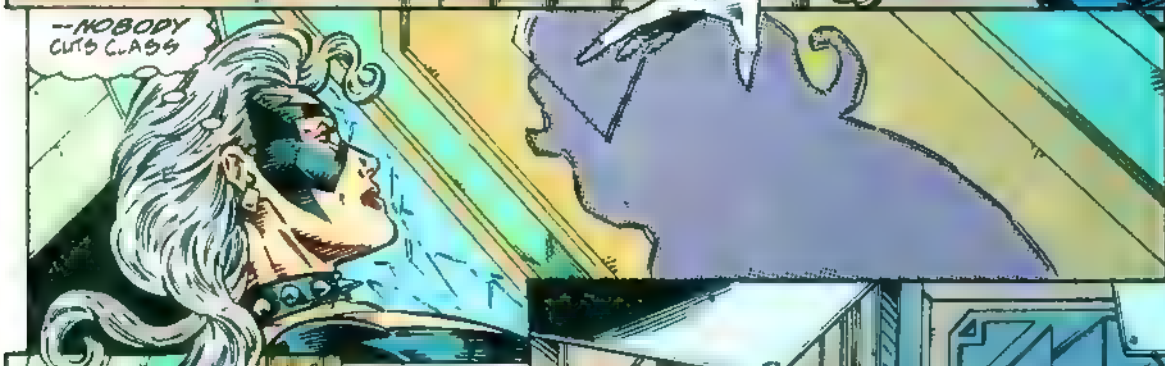


AN OLYMPIC-
CLASS
MANEUVER

I CAN SEE
ME TEACHING
THIS DURING
MY SUNSET
YEARS.

AND I'M
PAST THE
ENTRE WEB
OF BEAMS.

WITH ME
AS A GYM
TEACHER--



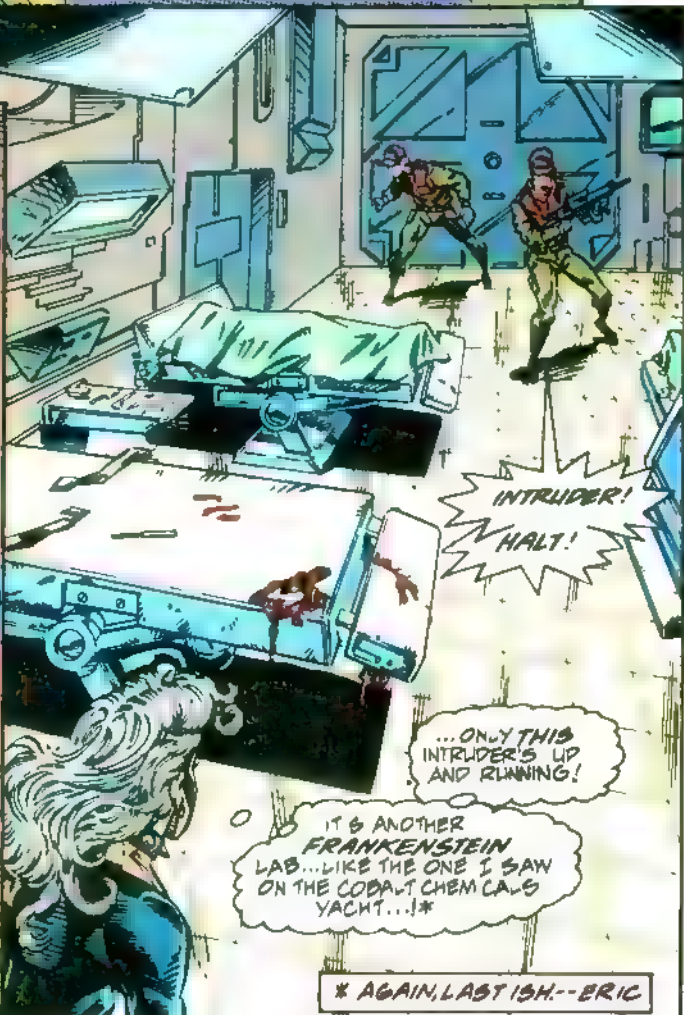
--NOBODY
CUTS CLASS



OR THEY GET CUT, AS
EASY AS MY ELECTRI-
FIED CLAWS CUT ME
A NEW ENTRANCE!



ON THE OTHER
HAND.



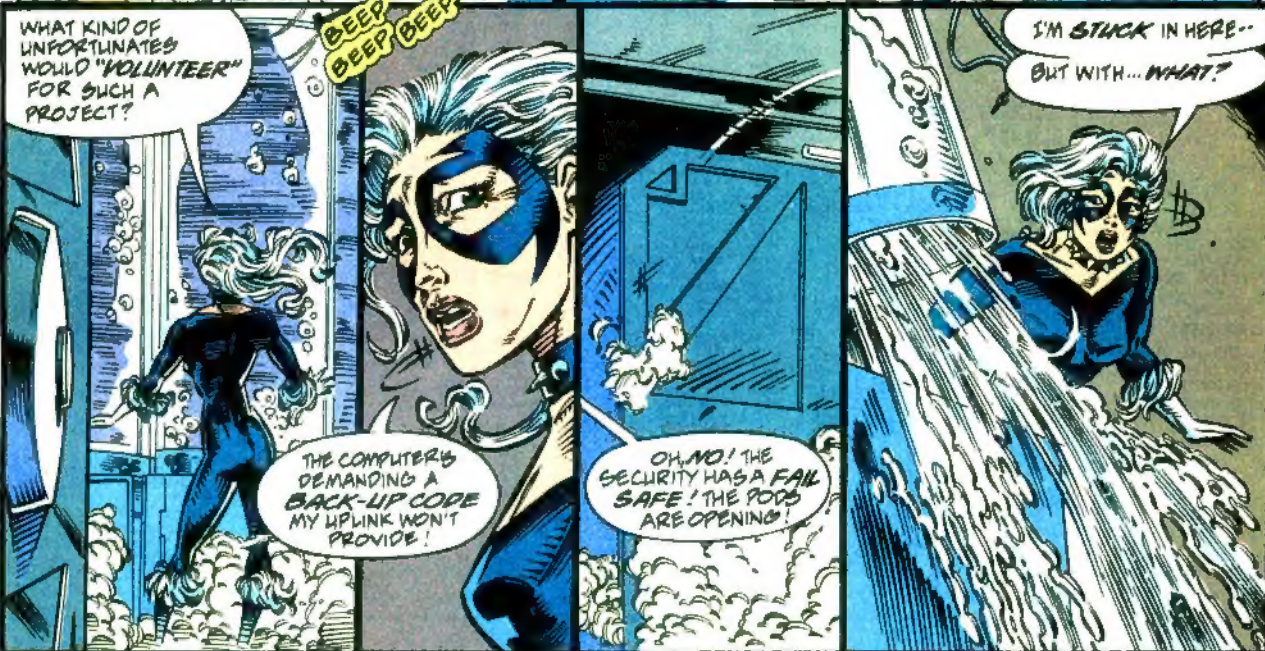
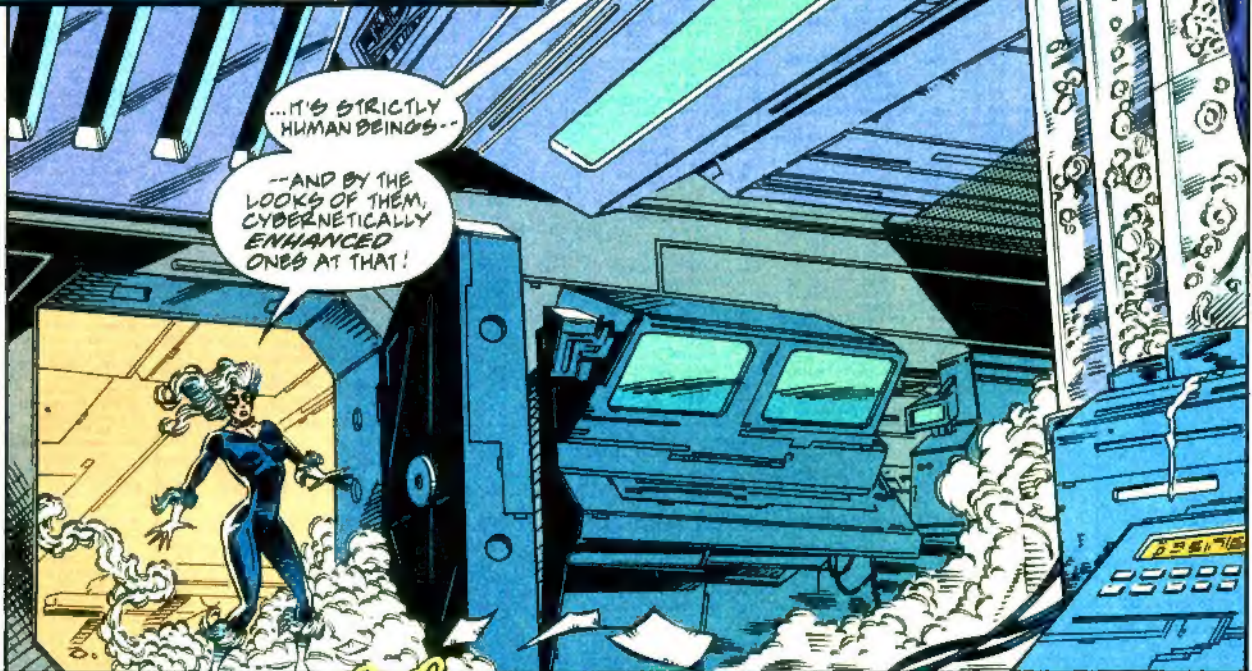
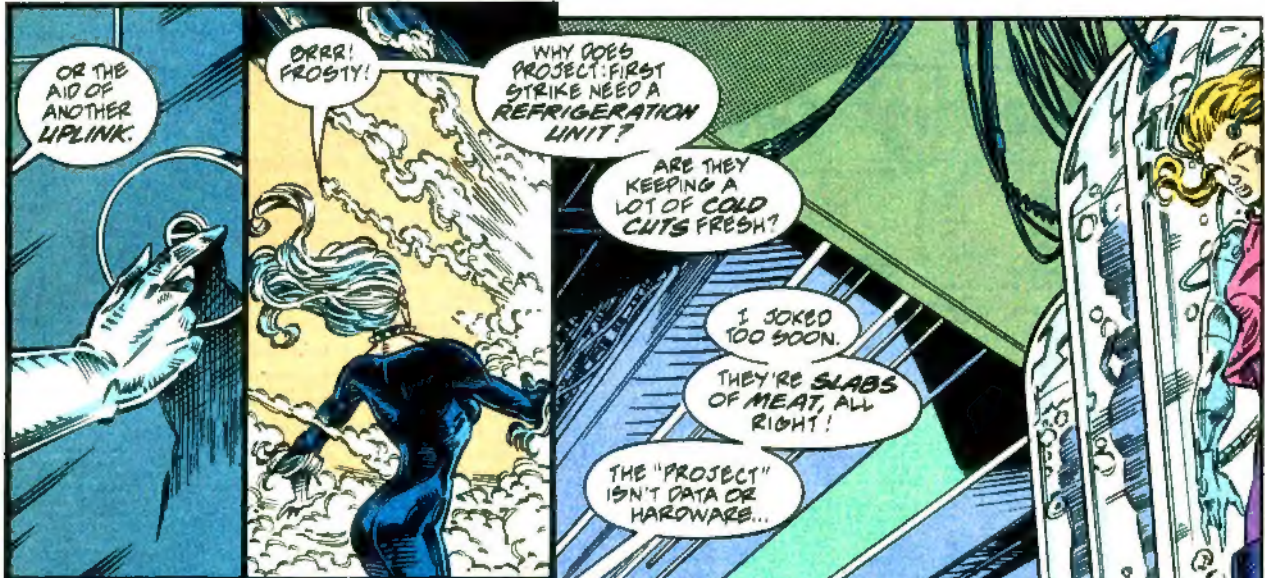
INTRUDER!
HALT!

...ONLY THIS
INTRUDER'S UP
AND RUNNING!

IT'S ANOTHER
FRANKENSTEIN
LAB...LIKE THE ONE I SAW
ON THE CODAL CHEM CALS
YACHT...!*

* AGAIN, LAST ISH.--ERIC





AS IF IN ANSWER,
THERE IS A WHIRR
OF SERVO-UNITS, A
HUM OF MACHINERY.

THE SCENT OF
PRESERVATIVE
CHEMICALS STINGS
THE BLACK CAT'S
NOSTRILS.

FOUR HUMANIDS STAGGER
FORWARD, BLINKING IN
THE SHARP FLUORESCENT
LIGHT. AS THEIR MOVEMENTS
QUICKEN, FELICIA REALIZES
THAT THESE CYBERNETIC
ORGANISMS ARE
PROJECT: FIRST STRIKE.

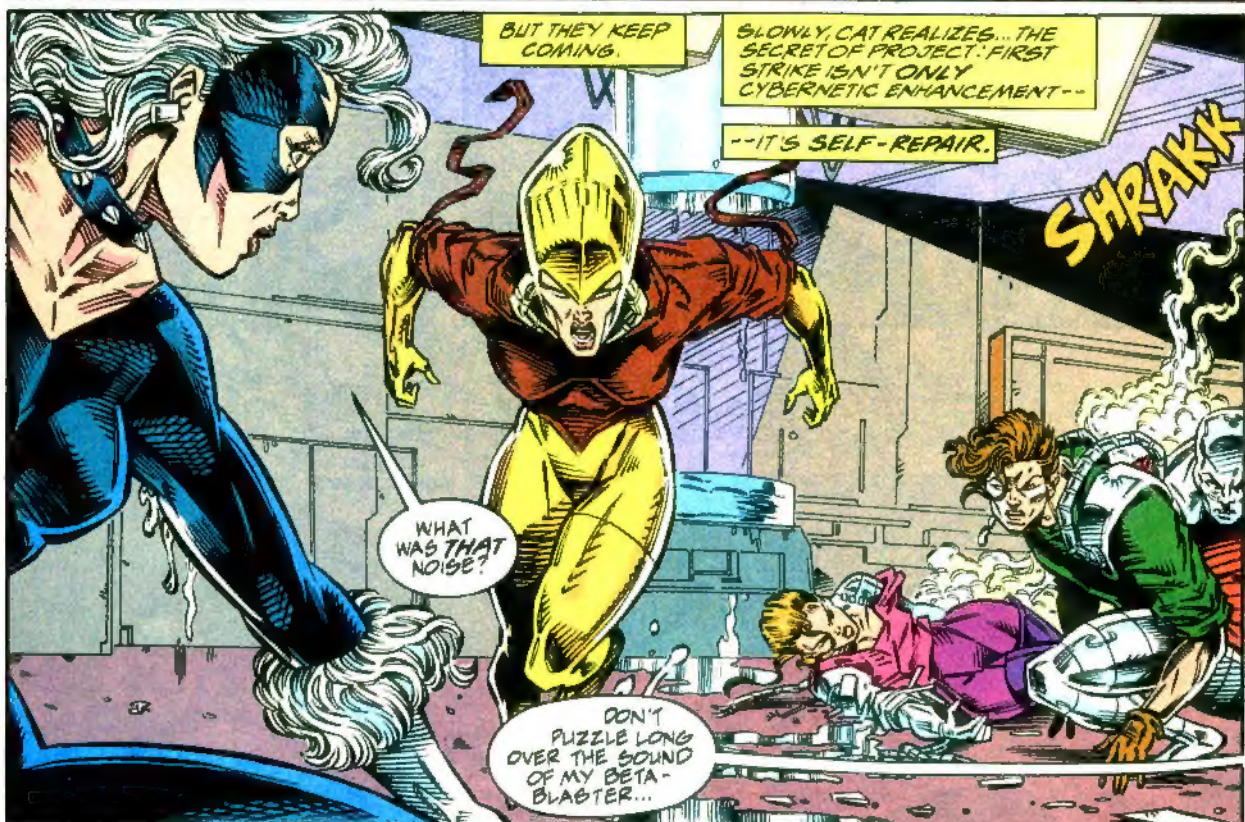
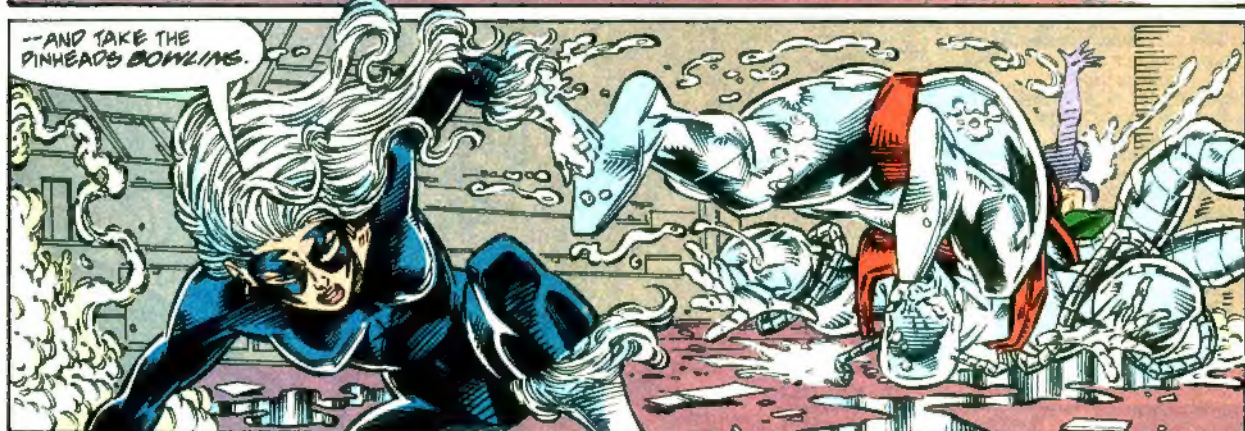
THEIR FIRST DEPLOYMENT...
TO HANDLE THEIR OWN
SECURITY.

OH BOY.
I STEPPED IN
IT DEEP THIS
TIME.

WHO PUT
YOUR VITAL
CABLE SERVOS
ON THE
OUTSIDE?

IT'S AN
EASY TASK TO
SEVER THEM
AND--

--AGKK!
THEY... DON'T
SEVER!





IT'S YOUR
DEATH
KNELL.

IT WILL BE HARD
FOR THESE CYBORGS TO
SELF-REPAIR ONCE
THEY'VE BEEN REDUCED
TO MOLECULES.

CARDIAC!

THANK YOU
FOR LEAVING A
TRAIL A CLUB
SCOUT COULD
FOLLOW, CAT!

AFTER I
WIPE OUT THESE
CORRUPT EXCUSES FOR
HUMAN BEINGS--

--I'LL
SETTLE MY
SCORE WITH
YOU!

**NEXT ISSUE: BLACK CAT,
CARDIAC AND THE FIRST
STRIKERS DUKE IT OUT!
PLUS, THE MYSTERY OF
CHIMERA DEEPENS!**